



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,830	04/30/2001	Byoung Ku Kim	8733.310.00	1003
30827	7590	10/12/2005		
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006				
			EXAMINER KIM, RICHARD H	
			ART UNIT 2871	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,830

Applicant(s)

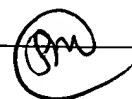
KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Richard H. Kim

Art Unit

2871



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 and 6-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by An et al. (US 6,392,725).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As to claims 1, 2 and 6, An discloses a liquid crystal module having improved fixing structure comprising optical sheets (145, 146) included in a backlight assembly (140) (col. 5, lines 7-13), a main frame (132) mounted with the backlight assembly, a shaft member (172, protrusion) installed at the main frame (132) to fix the optical sheets (col. 6, lines 24-31). An also discloses a panel guide (170, fixing unit) engaged in the shaft member (172) for surrounding the backlight assembly (140) and the main frame (132, Fig 4), wherein the shaft member has a

Art Unit: 2871

columnar shape (172). An also discloses that the optical sheets have holes (178) (col. 6, lines 26-28).

As to claim 3: An discloses that the main frame (132) is provided with a stepped hole (138).

As to claims 7-10 and 12-14, An discloses that the shaft member (172) has a protrusion (col. 6, line 26) having a width smaller than the width of the shaft member (Fig. 4) , as recited in instant claims 7 and 12. The extension of the protrusion through the holes in the optical sheets is shown in Figure 4 and (col. 5, lines 26-28), as recited in instant claim 8. The protrusion has a circular cross0section and the holes have a circular shape (Fig. 4), as recited in the instant claims 10 and 14 and the matching shape of the holes and the protrusion can be seen from Fig. 4, as recited in the instant claims 9 and 13.

As to claims 11 and 15, An discloses that the panel guide (170) has a holes (178) formed therein through which the protrusion (172) extends (Fig. 4) and (col. 5, lines 51-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over An in view of Ha et al. (US 6,166,788).

Art Unit: 2871

As to claims 4 and 5, An teaches all the recited limitations of claim 1, except An does not teach silicon pad on the optical sheets or a hole in the pad.

Ha in discloses a display module having a LCD panel attached to front housing, teaches the use of a silicon spacer (162, pad) (col. 8, lines 54-58) and Fig. 9. When attached to the module as shown in Figure 5, the silicon pad (162) is in between the flange (62) and the optical sheets (5-7). Since the flange (62) has a hole as shown in Figure 5 and a bolt (47) is placed to fix the optical sheets and the rest of the assembly together, the silicon pad has a hole also as shown in Figs. 5 and 9.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the silicon spacer to limit the up and down movements of the light assembly (5-7) (col. 8, lines 59-61).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 7/25/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. In response to Applicant's argument that the shaft (170) does not fix the optical sheets, Examiner submits that in column 6, lines 24-30, it is clearly indicated that shaft (170) fixes the optical sheets. In fact the shaft is referred to as a "fixing unit" that prevents "vibration or movement" of the optical sheets.
7. In response to Applicant's argument that An does not disclose that the shaft member has a columnar shape, the dictionary defines columnar as "of, relating to, resembling, or characterized by columns". It is the position of the examiner that the shaft member (172) is

Art Unit: 2871

clearly of a columnar shape. Even though the shaft member does not necessarily act as a column, the shaft member does in fact resemble the shape of a column.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard H. Kim whose telephone number is (571)272-2294. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-6:30 M-F.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on (571)272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2871

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Richard H Kim
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

RHK


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER